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Gen. Johnson Calls Progress In Vietnam 'Slow but Sure'

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson told a college audience Oct. 3 the United States is making progress slowly but surely in Vietnam.

Speaking at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., he said:

- Communists are losing more than four times as many men as all allied forces in combat.
- Enemy infiltration by sea has been greatly reduced.
- Major enemy offensive across DMZ has been prevented.
- South Vietnamese roads and waterways now safe for normal economic and military use have been significantly increased.
- Viet Cong are experiencing severe manpower problems all over the country.
- Food is a critical VC problem.

Note of Caution

Gen. Johnson cautioned those who call for even more powerful measures, however, pointing out that when alternatives are examined a frightening picture emerges, "because a frightful power can be unleashed at the touch of a button."

Outlining the expanding communist threat from both Moscow and Peiping he said that "failure to continue to support South Vietnam would be just as dangerous in today's environment as when Chamberlain went to Munich with his umbrella—and his hat—in hand.

"If the Russian leaders of today are more restrained, as some would like to point out, it is probably because, having tested our words with action several times over during the Cold War, they are not now interested in involving themselves in another direct confrontation. But the hard facts of Soviet military power and their mounting investment in the sophisticated machinery of war do not point to altered aims and cannot be interpreted simply as a desire for self protection."

Gen. Johnson also noted, "This is not a civil war, it is just one more in a series of so-called wars of national liberation by which the communists intend to subvert and overthrow the young, the unsettled, and the impoverished nations of the globe."

FIVE STAR VISITOR-General of the Army Omar Bradley shakes hands with men of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, at Landing Zone Sandra. Gen. Bradley spent a day with the division during his tour of Vietnam.

DOD's 'Project 100,000' Is Termed Outstanding Success by McNamara

Project 100,000, the year-old Department of Defense program to make selectees out of rejects, "is succeeding beyond our expectations," Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara said Oct. 3.

The Defense Department planned to accept 40,000 men who had failed selective service mental examinations between Oct. 1, 1966 and the first of this month, but exceeded this goal by 6,000 in the first 50 weeks, Mr. McNamara said.

No more than four to 4½ percent failed to meet the standard military qualification test after basic training, he added, stating that this is about double the washout basic training rate for all other personnel.

Moreover, he said, many Army commanders have reported these men to be more highly motivated than those men with a higher level of education because they were at last provided with a chance.

Mr. McNamara stressed that Project 100,000 has been stepped up as planned so the armed forces will accept 100,000 rejectees between Oct. 1, 1967 and Oct. 1, 1968 and for each of the years thereafter.

Washington Memos

ARMY'S RECRUITING COMMAND celebrated its third anniversary Oct. 1. Brig. Gen. Frank L. Gunn, USAREC Commanding General, congratulated 8,000 men and women who comprise command, adding that he is "confident our fourth year will be another challenging chapter in the history of the United States Army Recruiting Command."

SECRETARY MCNAMARA noted Oct. 3 many servicemen returning to civilian life feel they need additional training and DOD's "Project Transition" is expected to lend this assistance. Program is being initiated at six military installations at present time, he said, and within year it is expected 60 to 80 bases will offer such training.

AIR FORCE CIVIL engineers have completed extensive repair work at Eielson AFB and Ft. Wainwright which were damaged during Fairbanks, Alaska, flood last month. Working under Air Force's Base Engineer Emergency Force (Prime Beef) concept, specialists from 21st Civil Engineering Squadron, Elmendorf AFB joined with civil engineers from Eielson AFB's 5010th Civil Engineering Squadron to repair damage there. At request of U. S. Army, Alaska, Alaskan Air Command requested and received assistance from Civil Engineer Construction Operations Group, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, to assist in massive disaster-repair program at Ft. Wainwright.

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON Manpower and Civil Service has cited Naval Supply Depot, Mechanicsburg, Pa., for outstanding management practices. Depot has program to identify under-utilized employees and provide them with training for positions vacated by employees who are retiring.

AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT ship USS Guam made clean sweep of Navy's Weather Four Service Awards. Attached to Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force, ship was congratulated by Chief of Naval Operations who cited crew's "outstanding performance and contributions to excellence."

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has awarded two contracts totaling $5.08 million to Sikorsky Aircraft Div., United Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn. Two contracts provide for production and delivery of engine air particle separators and are in support of Army's CH-54A Flying Crane heavy lift helicopter program.

AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS Service (AFCS) will assume command responsibility for operation of Military Affiliate Radio Systems (MARS) stations at 34 Strategic Air Command bases by March 1968. Negotiations between AFCS and SAC have been underway since early 1966 for transition which will involve a major transfer of manpower and equipment.

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL ARMED Forces Reserve Joint Assembly held its initial meeting in Washington, D.C., Oct. 5. Hosted by Marine Corps Reserve, meeting featured presentation by Marine Brig. Gen. Oscar F. Peatross, Director, Management Analysis Group, Headquarters Marine Corps. Reserve Joint Assembly includes reservists of all armed forces and was organized to provide reserve forces in Washington area with an opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in areas of common interest.

A $43.4 MILLION addition to an existing contract for NIKE-X research and development has been awarded to Western Electric by Defense Department. Approximately $18 million of this results from decision to deploy a Communist Chinese-oriented ABM system, Defense Department explained. This is initial implementation of the deployment system. Remainder is for R&D on the NIKE-X system.

AIR FORCE LOGISTICS Command has opened an Advanced Logistics Systems Center at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, designed to develop logistics systems of the future. It consolidates several functions designed to improve capabilities in communications, data processing and materiel management.

NAVAL AIR STATION New York, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, N.Y., has won two top reserve aviation awards in Naval Air Reserve Training Command National competition. Awards were Edwin Francis Conway Memorial Trophy for most efficient Naval Air Station or Training Unit in training and operations, and Chief of Naval Air Training Trophy, awarded to most improved activity.

SOME 20 DEFENSE Communications Agency field commanders attended five-day 1967 Commanders' Conference at agency's headquarters, Arlington, Va. Held from Oct. 2-6, conference's purpose was to exchange information on important projects within Defense Communications System, National Military Command System, and Defense Satellite Systems. Conference was held in conjunction with Joint Chiefs of Staffs' 8th Annual Communications-Electronics Conference at Pentagon.

ASSISTANT CHIEF, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for Aerospace Medicine, represented Navy Surgeon General at Ohio State University hosted "Conference on Specialty Training in Aerospace Medicine." Representatives from Army, Navy, Air Force, NASA, FAA, commercial airlines and aerospace industries attended working conference on requirements for Residency Training in Aerospace Medicine.

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Background for Commanders

THE OUTLOOK FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM

Following are excerpts from an address given by President Johnson at the National Legislative Conference in San Antonio, Texas, September 29, 1967.

At times of crisis—before asking Americans to fight and die to resist aggression in a foreign land—every American President has finally had to answer this question:

Is the aggression a threat—not only to the immediate victim—but to the United States of America and to the peace and security of the entire world of which we in America are a very vital part?

That is the question which Dwight Eisenhower and John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson had to answer in facing the issue in Vietnam.

That is the question that the Senate of the United States answered by a vote of 82 to 1 when it ratified and approved the SEATO treaty in 1955, and to which the members of the United States Congress responded in a resolution that it passed in 1964 by a vote of 504 to 2. "The United States is, therefore, prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed forces, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia collective defense treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom . . ."

Reds' Path Traced

I cannot tell you tonight as your President—with certainty—that a Communist conquest of South Vietnam would be followed by a Communist conquest of Southeast Asia. But I do know there are North Vietnamese troops in Laos. I do know that there are North Vietnamese trained guerrillas tonight in Northeast Thailand. I do know that there are Communist-supported guerrilla forces operating in Burma. And a Communist coup was barely averted in Indonesia, the fifth largest nation in the world.

So your American President cannot tell you—with certainty—that a Southeast Asia dominated by Communist power would bring a third world war much closer to terrible reality. One could hope that this would not be so.

But all that we have learned in this tragic century strongly suggests to me that it would be so. As President of the United States, I am not prepared to gamble on the chance that it is not so. I am not prepared to risk the security—indeed, the survival—of this American Nation on mere hope and wishful thinking. I am convinced that by seeing this struggle through now, we are greatly reducing the chances of a much larger war—perhaps a nuclear war. I would rather stand in Vietnam, in our time, and by meeting this danger now, and facing it, thereby reduce the danger for our children and for our grandchildren. . . .

I know there are other questions on your minds, and on the minds of many sincere, troubled Americans: "Why not negotiate now?" so many ask me. The answer is that we and our South Vietnamese allies are wholly prepared to negotiate tonight. . . .

Our desire to negotiate peace — through the United Nations or out—has been made very, very clear to Hanoi —directly and many times through third parties.

An Offer to Hanoi

As we have told Hanoi time and time and time again, the heart of the matter really is this: The United States is willing to stop all aerial and naval bombardment of North Vietnam when this will lead promptly to productive discussions. We, of course, assume that while discussions proceed, North Vietnam would not take advantage of the bombing cessation or limitation.

But Hanoi has not accepted any of these proposals. . . .

Why, in the face of military and political progress in the South, and the burden of our bombing in the North, do they insist and persist with the war?

From many sources the answer is the same. They still hope that the people of the United States will not see this struggle through to the very end. As one Western diplomat reported to me only this week—he had just been in Hanoi—"They believe their staying power is greater than ours and that they can't lose. . . ."

The true peacekeepers are those men who stand out there on the DMZ at this very hour, taking the worst that the enemy can give. The true peacekeepers are the soldiers who are breaking the terrorist's grip around the villages of Vietnam—the civilians who are bringing medical care and food and education to people who have already suffered a generation of war.

Two Tasks for Allies

And so I report to you that we are going to continue to press forward. Two things we must do. Two things we shall do.

First, we must not mislead our enemy. Let him not think that debate and dissent will produce wavering and withdrawal. For I can assure you they won't. Let him not think that protests will produce surrender. Because they won't. Let him not think that he will wait us out. For he won't.

Second, we will provide all that our brave men require to do the job that must be done. And that job is going to be done.

These gallant men have our prayers—have our thanks —have our heartfelt praise—and our deepest gratitude.

Let the world know that the keepers of peace will endure through every trial—that with the full backing of their countrymen, they are going to prevail.

Air Force TAC Accepts 4th Phantom F4E Model

The fourth model of Phantom fighters—F-4E—has been accepted by the Air Force's Tactical Air Command for testing, and will augment the F-4C, F-4D and RF-4C presently in service with approximately 40 USAF squadrons throughout the world.

The F-4E has added air-to-air capability provided by a multi-barrel cannon in its nose, new model engines with increased thrust, and a miniaturized solid state fire control system.

Equipped with an internally mounted 20mm Gatling gun with a variable firing rate ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 rounds per minute, the new Phantom will have increased combat effectiveness for both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions.

NATO Military Committee Moves to Evere, Belgium

The Military Committee, NATO's highest military authority, is moving from the Pentagon to a new, joint headquarters in Evere, a suburb of Brussels, Belgium.

Moving with the Committee is the International Military Staff which is composed of officers of the nations contributing to NATO's military forces and serves as the Committee's executive agent.

Army Helicopters in RVN Test Low Altitude Leaflet Drops

American helicopters making "front door delivery" low altitude drops of leaflets to enemy troops are deemed more efficient than the high altitude "mass saturation" system which has been employed for years.

The psychological operations section of the 9th Infantry Division's 2nd Bn, 60th Inf, said "low altitude delivery guarantees pinpoint accuracy for drops, and insures that written messages will reach the intended target audience without the possibility of waste."

AWARD CEREMONY—Air Force Lt. Col. James R. Brickel, an RF-101 Voodoo pilot, receives the Air Force Cross from Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer, Seventh Air Force Commander. Col. Brickel was recognized for an unarmed photo mission over North Vietnam in which his aircraft was badly damaged.

Navy Names Destroyer Escort For Medal of Honor Winner

Navy has picked a destroyer escort to bear the name of Medal of Honor winner Marvin G. Shields, who was killed in June 1965 in Vietnam.

The keel of the 415-foot ship is scheduled to be laid in early 1968. It will carry one 5-inch gun and anti-submarine rockets and torpedoes.

Shields was a construction mechanic with a Seabee team at the Dong Xoai Special Forces camp in Vietnam when he won the nation's highest military decoration.

During an attack on the camp by a Viet Cong regiment, Shields, though wounded twice while passing ammunition and carrying wounded, accompanied the camp's commander in knocking out an enemy machine gun position. He was killed while returning from the mission.

Plans for AF Academy Space Education Center Approved by Dr. Brown

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. Harold Brown has authorized the Air Force Academy Foundation to proceed with final plans for development of an $8 million Aerospace Education Center at the academy.

Goal of the center will be the discussion and study of national and international problems concerning the challenging environments of air and space and the creation of interest and understanding in fields which are not the exclusive concern of government, but a matter of primary concern to every citizen.

It will also include facilities to provide an educational insight into the Air Force Academy's mission for more than one million visitors annually. The most modern audiovisual techniques will be used to portray the Air Force's role in peace-keeping operations around the globe and out into the frontiers of air and space.

The Air Force Academy Foundation, which is creating the center, will turn the completed project over to the Air Force for operation under guidance of the Air Force Academy Aerospace Education Association.

Flame-Retardant Gear Cited in Forrestal Fire

Navy officials credit flame-retardant flight coveralls and gloves with saving many aircrew men from severe burns during the fire aboard the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal in the Tonkin Gulf.

In one case, officials said, a man wearing the coveralls crawled across 100 feet of burning, non-skid flight deck without even skinning his knees.

Developed by Naval Air Systems Command, the coveralls are made of a polymide fiber of the nylon family that resists heat up to 800 degrees fahrenheit, and will char rather than burn or melt.

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